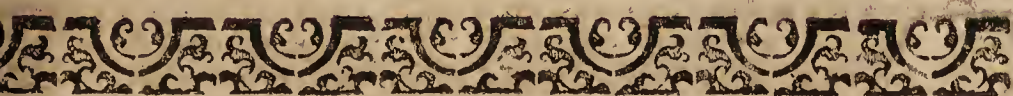


A
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VINDICATION
OF
Man-Midwifery, &c.



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A
VINDICATION
OF
MAN-MIDWIFERY,

Being the ANSWER of

Dr. POCUS, Dr. MAULUS, and Dr. BAREBONES,
and Others, their Brethren, who, *like Legion*,
are many,

TO THE

PETITION of the UNBORN BABES, &c.

IN A

LETTER

TO THE

PRESIDENT and CENSORS, and The Elect,
of the College of Physicians, *London*.

L O N D O N :

Printed for H. CARPENTER, in *Fleet-Street*.
1752. [Price SIX-PENCE.]

NOTATION

MAY-MIDWINTER

THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIAN, AND THE COLLEGE OF SURGEON, LONDON

OF THE LONDON HOSPITAL

LETTER

FROM THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIAN, AND THE COLLEGE OF SURGEON, LONDON

TO THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIAN, AND THE COLLEGE OF SURGEON, LONDON

ADVERTISEMENT.

A Scandalous and malicious Pamphlet having been published, entitled *The Petition of the unborn Babes to the President and Censors of the College of Physicians*; And as scandalous, and silly, and spurious an *Answer*, pretended to be *in Defence of Midwifery*, as it is at present practised with great *Ecclat* here in *England*, and of *Dr. Pocus*, *Dr. Maulus* *Dr. Barebones*, and others, *the* most eminent *Professors of it*, who are most injuriously aspersed and misrepresented in the said Pamphlets,

lets, *They* have at length thought fit to give a thorough Answer to them, and don't in the least doubt but that it will be to the Satisfaction of every *Fair* and impartial Reader.

To

The learned and worthy }
Dr. William Wasey, } *President,*

Sir William Browne, }
Dr. Ambrose Dawson, } *Elects and*
And } *Censors.*
Dr. James Hawley, }

Sir Edward Hulse, }
Dr. Gideon Harvey, }
Dr. Thomas Reeve, } *Elects.*
And }
Dr. Robert Nisbett, }

And
Dr. Robert Taylor, Censor,

These

Humbly Present.

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A

L E T T E R

T O

The President and Censors, &c.

O F

The College of Physicians,
London.

GENTLEMEN,

THE *Petition of the unborn Babes,*
which has been lately brought
before you, having been the Occasion
of a great Deal of unjust and unreason-
able Clamour and Rancour against the
Profession of Midwifery and us its Vo-
B taries,

taries, Will you give us leave to observe to you, That the *Ars Obstetricia*, or *Art of Midwifery*, is a useful and beneficial Branch of Manual Science, *almost as old as the Creation*, and was introduced into the World upon Occasion of what *our first Parent Eve*, the Mother of all Saints as well as Sinners, was threatened with in Consequence of her Transgression, and was seemingly *instituted by God himself*, as well as Matrimony, the only creditable Occasion of it, *in Allevation of that Pain and Sorrow which she and all her Sex after her, were doomed to go through with.* Gen. iii. and v. 16. *When they brought forth Children.*

Now *the Professors of this useful Art* were originally of the same Sex with *them*, and honourable Mention is made of them in Scripture, *as that they feared God and saved the Children alive, and God is said to have dealt well with these Midwives, and to have blessed them and made them Houses, and the*
 People

People multiplied and waxed mighty ;
as you may read, *Exodus* 1st, 20th,
and 21st Verses.

But *the Reason of this extraordinary*
Success of these Women-Midwives was,
because the Women whom they had
to deal with were lively and strong,
and when they came to be set *upon the*
Stools in order to be delivered, were
frequently so very forward with it, that
they were delivered *are the Midwives*
came in unto them, as you may read
likewise *in the same Chapter Verse*
19th, and the Midwives themselves do
likewise own.

Besides there was *in those Days*,
which were towards the Time of *the*
Reign of Saturn, and for some little
Time afterwards, *such a Goddess* as
as *Pudicitia* * or *Modesty*, *here upon*
Earth, which *Goddess* is supposed to

* *Pudicitia* Saturno rege, morata in terris, visaque diu
Aliquamdiu etiam sub Jove, Jove tamen imberbe.

JUV. SAT. 6^{ta}.

have

have interested herself very much in Womans Concerns, and to have been a great Friend to these Women-Midwives, and to have excluded all others from having any Thing to do at their Labours.

But may it please your Worships, that Goddess has long since taken her Flight from off this Earth, and Labours are not only more frequent, but likewise more difficult, than formerly. For whereas formerly, through the Interposition of that Goddess, it was with Difficulty, that Women were brought to comply with what is necessary in order to bring them into the Hands of the Midwife, and their Labours likewise were short ; it is now quite otherwise, and there is little or no Difficulty in getting them to comply with the Means, but a great Deal in freeing them from the Consequences of it, altho' this is no more than what had been likewise foretold, and was denounced even from the first, as you may see in
the

above Chapter of Genesis v. 16. where it is expressly said, that their Conceptions, as well as their Sorrows, should be greatly multiplied.

It was necessary therefore, from that Time at least, that *this Business* should come into the Hands of Persons of greater Parts and Abilities ; especially considering that there may be every now and then, something or other wanting towards their going on with *the Conceptive Part*, which it is not in the Power of one of their own Sex to assist them in. Besides, it is well known Things of this Nature are often attended with several Circumstances which require the utmost Secrecy ; and is there *any Secret whatsoever* that is not only equally, but infinitely more secure in the Custody of a Man than of a Woman ?

We have but one Thing more to say with respect to *Women-Midwives* ; and that is, that how general soever Prescription may have been in their Favour,

Favour, and how universal soever their Vogue and Esteem in some Ages and Countries, yet they *have not altogether maintained their Characters*, or been free from Censure and Reproach, as is evident from what *Terence* says of *Lesbia*, a famous Midwife in his Time, *Sane mulier ista est temulenta & temeraria, nec satis digna cui committas in primo partu mulierem*, *Andria*, Act. 1. Sc. 4. and that she was sent for by a little, impertinent, drunken old Gossip, like herself, *Quia Compotrix ejus erat*.

You will be pleased likewise to consider that *Women* are wholly illiterate, and *never brought up to any Thing of Letters*, beyond their Sample ; *Men* on the contrary are *alway brought up to something, or other* ; and there is a particular *Happiness* that does attend *Man-Midwifery*, which is, that a *Person*, let him be educated to what he will, *shall no sooner profess himself to be a Master of the Operative*, which is indeed the principal *Part of it*, and
to

to be at the Service of the Ladies upon that Account, *but he shall forthwith be consulted and advised with*, and entrusted by them ; and not only as to the Success of their Husband's Endeavours with them, or as to their Pregnancy, but likewise *as to all Distempers whatsoever*, whether Acute or Chronical, and of the greatest Emergency, which may accidentally befall them ; and so *immediately commence a considerable Physician*.

There is *another Happiness* likewise *that attends this Branch of Business*, and that is, that a Man has, or at least is generally thought to have, a more agreeable way *Controctandi partes Fæmineas*, than a Woman ; from whence it is observable that a Woman who has been once laid by a Man, will never willingly be laid by a Woman afterwards : Nay let any of us be but once admitted to what we call, and what is known to be, the *Privilege of our Profession*, viz. the Liberty of examining

mining into every Thing that may be necessary in Order to our Satisfaction, which certainly is allowable, and ought not in reason to be refused upon proper Application ; let us but once We say be admitted to this, and it is an Hundred to One but we make sure of the Lady, and never lose her for a Patient afterwards : And it was for want of this necessary Permission, that the late Dr. *Dowglass* was so much out in his Judgement with respect to *the Pregnancy* of her Royal Highness *the Princess of Orange*, as we have often heard him complain.

Now as to what is objected against us, We little thought that it would ever have been charged upon us as a Fault or Crime, that we facilitated Deliveries.

Going too long is certainly *the Cause of an Abortion or Miscarriage*, as sure and effectual, though not so frequent, as *Going too short* a Time, as has been observed

observed by the learned *Dr. Swift*,
Tale of a Tub, towards the Conclusion;
 And it is as certainly *our Duty* to do
 every thing that we can in order *to*
prevent Miscarriages from any Occasi-
 on whatsoever. Now if it happens
 so, that a Woman cannot be deliver-
 ed by Reason of some *Helpless Thing*
 that lies in and plugs up the Passage,
 ought not we to endeavour to remove
 the *Causa obstruens* as soon as possi-
 ble, rather than to suffer the poor
 Woman to lie so long under the gre-
 vious *Pain and Peril of Child Birth*,
 that her Strength shall be at last al-
 most totally exhausted, and it shall
 scarce be in the Power of any one of
 us so much as *to force* or bring on a
Birth, and to make a Delivery? And
 if we, through our own Ingenuity, or
 any other Means, have found out, or
 met with, any *Helps* or *Instruments*,
 which are *of use* upon such Emergen-
 cies, as likewise *whenever the Births*
are too dilatory, (which often happens,)
 we think that we deserve to be com-

mended rather than caluminated for frequently using them, especially as we always *alarm the Bye-standers* with the particular Danger that there is to the Mother, in Case we don't: And though an Accident may sometimes happen, as that *the Child* may *not* be so *thoroughly dead* as it was thought to be, and indeed ought to have been, (and no Man is free from Accidents,) yet as *the Grave* is a very good Coverlet upon several other Occasions, so *the Bed* is an excellent Screen in all such cross Events as these in Midwifery, and he must be a *Sorry Man-Midwife* indeed, who in such a Case, does not know how to give the Infant a Snip in the Navel String, which is Dr. Barebones's Way*, or a Squallh against the Bedstead; which is *that of some of his Disciples*, and a good Way too, And then all is Right: *Nam utcunq; evidentissima ea † est Medicina quæ manu cura, Cavendum tamen est ut non sit evidens ea quæ necat*, Which is an

* Petition, Page 9.

† *Hec juxta Celsum.*

Axiom that we would recommend to the Consideration of most Practitioners.

As to the *further Charge* against us, that we asperse and accuse the Infants of *undutiful and riotous Behaviour* towards their Mothers, in order to justify our own Conduct towards them, which is injuriously represented to be merciless and cruel, *Petition pag. 6th and 7th.* It is *false, scandalous, malicious and vexatious*, and could never have come out of their Mouths, had it not first been put into their Heads by some *circumcised or uncircumcised crack-brain'd Enthusiast Anatomist, or Sham Doctor.*

There is but *one Thing* more that we have *to say for ourselves*, and that is, there are several more Things which we might say for ourselves, and to mention only one, that we have a most *invaluable Specifick* against *Barrenness*, but we decline it, and choose not to do like that impudent Fellow,
Alexander

Alexander Bendo, in King *Charles* the Second's Time, who because he was possessed of *much the same Secret*, and was a Sort of a *Female Physician* in those Days, had the Assurance to proclaim it in the Face of the whole World, upon *Tower-Hill*, and to Brag withal, “ That he had had the good
 “ Wishes and hearty Prayers of many
 “ Families for it, who otherwise had
 “ pined out the Remainder of their
 “ Days, under the deplorable and reproachful Misfortune of barren
 “ Wombs, leaving plentiful Estates
 “ and Honours, and Possessions to be
 “ inherited by Strangers.”

Vide his Speech and his Bills.

And now *Gentlemen*, we hope you are satisfied there is nothing in this *libellous Petition* to our real Disreputation, and consequently that you will not take any more Notice of it to our Disadvantage for the future, than you have done hitherto.

Besides,

Besides, *Gentlemen*, as some of us may possibly be more nearly related to some of you, than perhaps our Fathers, or even you yourselves, till very lately, ever dreamt of, give us Leave to Address to you in much the same Manner as *Moses* * did to the Children of *Israel*, when in *Ægypt* : *Sirs*, ye are Brethren, why do you do this Wrong, or Injury one to another ? *Sirs*, why should we quarrel with, or malign one another ? *The Schools of Midwifery* also, are daily sending forth many an Enterpriser, who is ready to practice *Phyick* ; and *Midwifery*, *i. e.* *Man-Midwifery*, is every Day more and more growing, and encreasing in Strength and Stature, and *Grace and Favour*, if not with God and Man, yet *with Women*. If you have your *Sir Edward*, and your *Sir William* ; we have had our *Sir David*, and we have our *Sir Richard*.---If you have your thirty, and forty, and fourscore Thousand Pound Men among you, we have

* *Exod.* ii. vers. 13th. and *Acts* vii. vers. 26th.

our ten, and twenty, and thirty, and forty Thousand Pounders, among us. --If you have your Dr. *Mead* we have our Dr. *Barebones*, and others, who are Dabs at Prescriptions, as well as Deliveries, and there is not one of us all who is not Master of Dr. *Chamberlaine's* * Bolus, and well enough qualified to be a Favourite of Fortune and of the Fair Sex.

Go on *Gentlemen* and continue to be, as you are *the Ornaments of the Profession*.

We are

*Your most obedient and obliged
humble Servants,*

E. Schola Bareboneana
prope Turrim;
Febr. 14th, 1752.

Pocus, and Comp.

* Bolus e Mithridat. Spermat. Coet. & Pulv. e Chel. 6. 9, comp. ana ʒ ss. cum Syrup. Croc. q.s. addit. nonnunquam Castor. Russenf. gr. jv.

A most excellent Bolus, and if it be all that he knows pray where is the Harm of it? It may be almost as much perhaps as most of us knew when we first took up Midwifery.

P O S T S C R I P T.

IN a short Time will be published, *A compleat List of all the Men-Midwives in and about the Cities of London and Westminster, with an Account of their respective Abodes, and Houses of Call; together with a short Account of all the Men-Midwives, and the several Schools and Nurseries that there are for them, throughout the Kingdom; from which, as it is to be hoped, there will never be wanting a sufficient Supply of fit and able Men to be Aids de Conne or Assistants to our Wives, and Daughters too when they come to be married, upon all Occasions.*

In a short Time likewise too, will be published, *the Life and Adventures of that Agent for Old Nick, (our Antagonist) the Sweating Doctor; agreeable to the Plan, advertised by us, in*
the

the *Gazetteer* of Yesterday ; and if he should really be such a wrong headed Creature, &c. as he is represented to be*, and as we don't in the least doubt but we shall shew him to be, *How is it possible that we should ever be guilty of those Things which are laid to our Charge ?*

* By an unlucky Squeeze from the Hands of an ignorant Midwife, whom his Mother doated upon.

Gazetteer, February 13th.

F I N I S.